

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 11-13, 18, and 19 are amended, and claim 20 is added. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, and 13 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, the Applicants have amended claims 11 and 12 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,106) in view of Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,547,382) and Young (U.S. Patent No. 3,533,899); claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Lyle (U.S. Patent No. 4,293,231); claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Lyle, and further in view of Clarkson (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,991); claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view Tagawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,995,280); claims 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell and Yamazaki, and further in view of Young and Tosaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,989,123); claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell and Yamazaki, and further in view of Young and Tosaki et al.; claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell, Yamazaki, Young and Lyle;

claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki, Lyle, McDowell and Young; and claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Tagawa, and further in view of McDowell and Young.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 13

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"a frame body having a cylindrical portion and at least two main frames that are directly attached to the cylindrical portion, the at least two main frames having curved shapes".

In addition, independent claim 13 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"first to third main frames directly connected at equal angular intervals from left, right, and front sides of the cylindrical portion" ...

"wherein the first and second main frames have lengths that are longer than the third main frame, and the first and second main frames have shapes that are different from each other".

The Examiner concedes that McDowell fails to disclose a frame body having a cylindrical portion and at least two main frames.

Yamazaki et al. were cited to teach two pedals operable as a brake and a gear changer.

As for the Young reference, as can be seen in FIG. 6, this document merely discloses linear frame members 9 that are merely connected by triangular plates to the cylindrical portion (not labeled in FIG. 6). Thus, Young fails to teach or suggest "a frame body having a cylindrical portion and at least two main frames that are directly attached to the cylindrical portion, the at least two main frames having curved shapes", as set forth in independent claim 1.

In addition, Young merely discloses pipes 9, 9 (FIG. 6) and seat (pipe) 10 (FIG. 5) having equal lengths and shapes. Thus, Young fails to teach or suggest "the first and second main frames have lengths that are longer than the third main frame, and the first and second main frames have shapes that are different from each other", as set forth in independent claim 13.

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 13 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including McDowell, Yamazaki, and Young.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 5

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 5 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"the vibrator includes an eccentrically mounted weight mounted on a motor shaft extending from an outer end of the vibrator;

"wherein each of the brackets includes a recess on an inner surface thereof, and when the brackets are mated together, the recesses of the mating brackets form a space in which the vibrator is disposed" ...

"wherein the recesses of the brackets have flat inner faces that oppose each other for engaging with left and right flat sides of the vibrator, and the eccentrically mounted weight is disposed in a portion of the brackets separate from the recesses".

Support for the novel features of claim 5 can be seen in the application as originally filed, for example, in FIGS. 9-11. By contrast, neither of Yamazaki et al. nor Lyle teaches an eccentrically mounted weight mounted on a motor shaft disposed in a portion of the bracket separate from the recesses. Lyle merely discloses a pneumatic vibrator, and Yamazaki et al. provide no suggestion of an eccentrically mounted weight.

Therefore, independent claim 5 is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 6

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 6 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

“wherein a first portion of the hollow space is enclosed and includes two flat inner faces that are parallel to each other for engaging with two parallel flat sides of the vibrator”

... “wherein the vibrator includes an eccentrically mounted weight mounted on a motor shaft extending from an outer end of the vibrator so as to be disposed in a second portion of the hollow space that is separate from the first portion”.

Support for the novel features of claim 6 can be seen in the application as originally filed, for example, in FIGS. 9-11.

By contrast, neither of Yamazaki et al. nor Lyle teaches an eccentrically mounted weight mounted on a motor shaft disposed in a portion of the bracket separate from the recesses. Lyle merely discloses a pneumatic vibrator, and Yamazaki et al. provide no suggestion of an eccentrically mounted weight.

Therefore, independent claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 7

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner’s rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 7 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

“the vibrator including an eccentric cam attached to the motor shaft, the eccentric cam being disposed in a portion of the brackets separate from the recesses”...

“wherein each of the brackets includes a recess on an inner surface thereof, and when the brackets are mated together, the recesses of the mating brackets form an enclosed space in which the vibrator is disposed” ...

“wherein the recesses of the brackets have flat inner faces opposing each other for engaging with left and right flat sides of the vibrator, the eccentric cam being disposed in a portion of the brackets separate from the recesses”.

Support for the novel features of claim-7 can be seen in the application as originally filed, for example, in FIGS. 9-11.

By contrast, neither of Yamazaki et al. nor Lyle teaches an eccentric cam mounted on a motor shaft disposed in a portion of the bracket separate from the recesses. Lyle merely discloses a pneumatic vibrator, and Yamazaki et al. provide no suggestion of an eccentric cam.

Therefore, independent claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 11

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"a click generator adapted to generate a click feeling similar to a gear change in an actual motorcycle when a gear change is made by operating said gear change pedal,

wherein the click generator comprises a support member disposed between a cover member and a support plate, and a ball member disposed in a hole formed in a shaft projecting from a support member, the cover member having a hole portion formed therein in which the ball member is engaged when said gear change pedal is in a center position".

The Examiner concedes that Yamazaki fails to disclose a click generating means. As for Tagawa, FIG. 3 of this document merely discloses ball 28 mounted in ball holder 29, and fails to teach or suggest a hole in a shaft projecting from a support member between and cover member and a support plate, as set forth in independent claim 11.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamazaki in view of Tagawa.

Therefore, independent claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 12, 18, and 19 have been amended, and claim 20 has been added.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

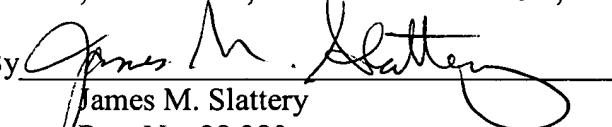
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030(direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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